114 sult, and the Tuareg have been among the most spectacular victims.

The famous veil of these great desert warriors (figs. 25, 26, and 51) has cast its shadow of romantic mystery not only over the faces of its wearers but over their whole culture, and so both opportunity and temptation to romanticize have overcome to some extent many of those who have written about the Tuareg tribes. In the summer of 1956 the author heard a well-known public lecturer and traveler, who had even been to Tamanrasset for a few days, declare to his unsuspecting audience of honest New England farmers that the Tuareg are probably descended from a little band of crusaders who got cut off in the rock-walled valley of Petra (in what is now the Kingdom of Jordan), whence they finally escaped and found their way (heaven knows how) clear across Africa to the mountains of the Ahaggar. He added that Tuareg men are
•[141] about 7 feet tall—and he was speaking in a church—although the tallest one so far recorded measured just over 6 feet 5½ inches, while the average Targui stands only about 5 feet 8 in his sandal-feet (*see* table A-2).

114 Tuareg morality and personal hygiene have
515 been the subjects of hardly less exaggeration. Several generations of frustrated readers have by now found vicarious satisfaction in titillating tales of the great ladies of the Ahaggar, beautiful of face and graceful, gracious and unclean, skilled in the arts of love, poetry and music, fascinating and refined and evil-smelling. These unattractively attractive custodians of a spuriously antique chivalrous tradition have been said to welcome to their bosoms and their beds nearly all socially presentable admirers, while their docile husbands stand modestly aside and show their good breeding by
114 concealing their emotions. Few authors seem to have been bothered by the glaring contrast between this rather pitiful picture of long-suffering patience and the very different one that they usually present only a few pages earlier, in which we see the fire-breathing knights of the Ahaggar, those seven-foot sons of the flower of Christian chivalry, busily chasing each other up and down the rocky mountain slopes when there doesn't happen to be anyone else around to kill. But this contrast bothers us—surely there must be something wrong somewhere. So let us take a

2:Briggs E-4, 5 (ca. 1956) 1958
MS25 Tuareg MS25
Hoggar
[P. 163A]
[Pp. 103B-162B not processed]

141

We have already seen that the Saharan Tuareg are famous for their extreme tallness, which, however, has often been grievously exaggerated. The fact remains, nevertheless, that they are the tallest people in our area and among the tallest in the world. The mean stature of males is approximately 5 feet 8 inches, a bare ½ inch below the American male mean, but individual statures vary widely, from about 5 feet to 6 feet 5½ inches in the series that have been published. The legs of Tuareg men are relatively long but their arms are of only ordinary length in relation to their stature. Leblanc (1928–29, vol. 39, p. 22), followed occasionally by more recent authors (*e.g.*, Lhote, 1955, p. 165 and Blanguernon, 1955, p. 43), listed excess of span over stature as one of the two most distinctive physical peculiarities of the Tuareg. A glance at table A–11 shows that his theory has no foundation whatever in fact, for span exceeds stature in nearly all human populations everywhere, while even the Mzabites and humble Haratin are set apart much more distinctly in this respect than are the Tuareg. Tuareg shoulders are narrow both relatively and absolutely, by European standards, and hips are rather narrow too. Chests are small and relatively flat.

The heads of the Tuareg are typically longish, with a mean cephalic index just below the lower limit of mesocephaly, but occasional individuals have low brachycephalic indices. Faces are moderately short and wide, with foreheads that are often very broad by European standards although relatively narrower than those of other Saharan groups. Lower jaws are narrow both relatively and absolutely.

[1] Dixon (1923, p. 21) described his fundamental "Proto-Negroid" type merely as Dolichocephalic (long headed), Hypsicephalic (high headed) and

2:Briggs E-4, 5 (ca. 1956) 1958
MS25 Tuareg MS25
Hoggar

THE TUAREG

141 Noses are of medium length and fairly broad, with a mean index that is high by European standards but only average for the Sahara. Ears are moderately large in size and of ordinary proportions (figs. 46–54).

142 Leblanc (1928–29, vol. 39, p. 20), again followed by Lhote (1955, pp. 162 and 165), has laid great stress on the nasal profile as the prime distinctive racial characteristic of the Tuareg. "The Targui nose," he wrote, "is high, narrow at the root, long, slightly aquiline, but never convex in its entirety as one finds among Semitic types. . . . *It ends in a narrow and drooping point*" (the italics are his). But this peculiar nasal profile does not appear to occur in females, nor is it found in all of the men by any means. In fact, the present author is inclined to think that it is probably not a heritable character at all, but merely an artificial deformation produced by the pressure of the veil which the older boys and men of the Tuareg bind, often tightly, across the lower half of the nose (fig. 26, *b*).

Unexposed skin is usually white or pale brunet. As Duveyrier (1864, p. 382) wrote, it is white in infancy but becomes quickly bronzed by exposure to the sun. The degree of tanning is extremely variable, however, and may sometimes be related to incipient blondism or rufousity on the one hand or to negroid admixture on the other.

Eye color varies normally from light to very dark brown, but blue and mixed eyes do occur occasionally in spite of all that has been said to the contrary (Leblanc, 1928–29, vol. 39, pp. 20 and 33; Lhote, 1955, p. 163). In April, 1956, Henri J. Hugot (*verb. com.*) met a Targui of

Platyrrhine (broad nosed), and his "Caspian" type as Dolichocephalic, Hypsicephalic and Leptorrhine (narrow nosed).